



*The Radio Amateur Society
of Australia*

QTC

November 2025

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St Barnabas Church, Norfolk Island



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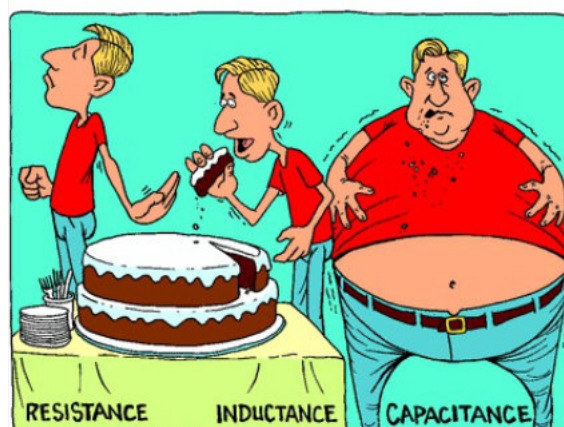
Cover picture credit:

Photo of St Barnabas Church, Norfolk Island, by Chris Chapman VK3QB.

Contributing Items For QTC Magazine

QTC Magazine welcomes contributions for future editions. When planning to submit an article, please read our submission guidelines first.

Following the guidelines will save you and the editing team a lot of time and effort. The guidelines are [HERE](#)



From the President - ACMA Five-year spectrum outlook 2025–30

By Vice President Bob VK6POP

On October 29th, the ACMA announced its [five-year spectrum outlook](#), which takes us up to 2030.

It may come as no surprise to learn that there's no candy for Amateur Radio.

They remade the Amateur Radio LCD, bringing exams, assessors and callsign administration back in house, and this seems to be working well.

There was some tidying up and honing of the callsign administration, and the management of course content, exams and assessors. To be fair, the ACMA has done a good job of bringing those functions back in-house, and has been responsive in ironing out the wrinkles.

Unfortunately, the long sought after



kilowatt for Advanced licensees and access to 60 metres were put off the menu by the ACMA, refusing to consider either.

The kilowatt was off the table because the ACMA simply didn't want to talk about it, and they washed their hands of 60 metres, saying it was up to Defence, as 60m was denied to Australians in 2015 at the behest of Defence.

We believe the ACMA will commence consultation on the next five year outlook in the first quarter of 2026. Based on the usual demographic of Amateurs, it's likely that a good number of present Amateurs will be off air or deceased by time these

privileges are granted, if indeed they ever will be.

The ACMA has a bee in its bonnet about a kilowatt for Amateurs, and in spite of many approaches made to the ACMA by RASA (and probably by the WIA, but they are usually secretive about what they may be doing with the ACMA), they refuse to discuss it.

Furthermore, in the five year outlook just released, they again point us to scientific licences which will allow that higher power.

This was despite the many submissions that were made indicating the internationally acknowledged inappropriateness of applying a Scientific Licence model to Amateur Radio operations.

This move was tantamount to requiring a cyclist to acquire a heavy truck license in order to ride a bicycle to a corner store.

This shows they have no understanding (or simply don't care) of why Amateurs wish to have a kilowatt available. They seem stuck on EME, and don't want to acknowledge that Amateurs have other reasons for using higher power.

We need the whole Amateur Radio community to strongly voice their opinions and desires for the hobby when given the opportunity via a consultation process. It's up to individuals, clubs and representative groups to all pull together to bring about the changes.

RASA will keep the Amateur Radio community informed about any future consultation process. You as individuals and clubs ought to be rattling the cages of both RASA and the WIA, demanding that both organisations put up a coordinated case to the ACMA. RASA is up for it.

The conduct of the WIA is unknown. Stated objectives appear to take second-place for a small number who prioritise hatred over advancement of the hobby.



objectives.

And here we are at the November 2025 edition of QTC.

In this edition there's a report from the 2025 VK9NT Dxpediton to Norfolk Island, including some lovely photos.

Here at RASA and the QTC publishing desk, we endeavour to adhere to RASA's objectives, which are to:

- provide evidence based research and strategic direction for issues related to Amateur Radio to third parties involved in the administration, management and regulation of the hobby;
- promote Amateur Radio and its role in facilitating emerging communication technologies;
- educate and encourage the next generation of Radio Amateurs; and
- lobby the regulator in order to protect and enhance the privileges of Australian Radio Amateurs.

These are shown on the front page of the RASA website, and shown at the front for a reason. That's to remind us and our website visitors what we're about.

Those are the things that are important to us, and those are what we want to put our energy into. RASA's office bearers and volunteers have signed and agreed to adhere to RASA's code of conduct.

There are those who believe that RASA exists to destroy the Wireless Insitute of Australia (WIA), with no evidence to support that claim. Meanwhile, the RASA team continues to meet our objectives, with provision of innovative resources primarily aimed at easing the entry into the hobby, especially as these resources are free and available to everyone.

Yes there are critics, and if you encounter one, and some are unreasonably vocal, invite them to have a chat, and talk about what's really happening, because RASA is getting on with its work, meeting its

In September we called for volunteers to join a project to evaluate and review FreeDV, which has been around for a while, but has made some huge developments over the last few years. That review is in this editon of QTC.

The date for Antennapalooza 2026 has been anounced, and advance information is included in QTC this month so you can start your planning. If you have no idea what Antennapalooza is, read the article. You may become interested.

QTC continues its support for club activities, be they hamfests, carboot sales, field days, special meetings, whatever. We are offering half or full page advertisements free of charge. Read the promo item in QTC to find out how easy it is to advertise free in our magazine.

Would you like to contribute to QTC? Write an article, send in photos (we're always on the lookout for front cover photos), or a letter to the editor.

info@vkradioamateurs.org



To: info@vkradioamateurs.org

Foundation Level Study Guide - V3

Version 3 of the Foundation Level Study Guide (FLSG) has been published.

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia




Foundation Level
Study Guide

V3 November 2025

Your Gateway to the
World of Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio provides virtually unlimited opportunities for you to explore the technical, scientific and social aspects of this truly global hobby

A Free Amateur Radio Learning Resource

This multimedia learning resource has been developed by RASA and is provided free of charge.



Updates include:

- New Chapter 11 which includes information about the Practical Assessment
- Updates on contact details for clubs providing courses

Like all RASA resources, the FLSG is free, and we encourage you to share it with your club, friends and others who may be interested in becoming a radio amateur.

This resource is backed up by our other award-winning resources, available from the [RASA website](#), including QRM Guru, the Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook, and VKRegs.

This resource is unique. Not only is it up-to-date with the latest information on the Class Licence, but it includes tailored instructional videos, links to useful websites, and extra “good to know” learning opportunities.

The FLSG is available [HERE](#)

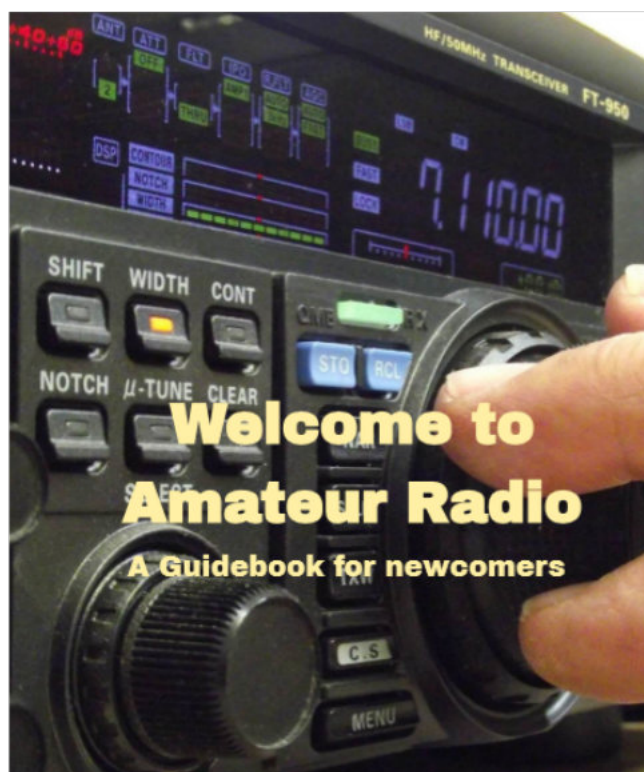
The Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook

The RASA Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook provides an introduction to our hobby for new Foundation class amateurs, or anyone new or returning to the hobby.

The book is published digitally. It contains many hotlinks to external websites with useful information.

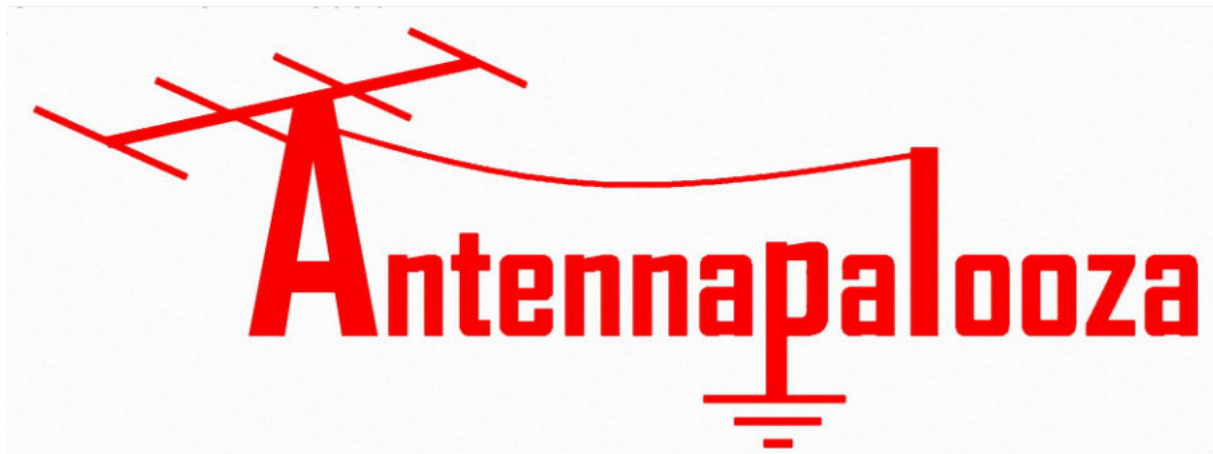
It is available as an Acrobat pdf file suitable for reading on a PC or tablet. It can be printed if required.

Download the guidebook [HERE](#).



Click or Scan the QR code to visit RASA's website





Antennapalooza in 2026 will be on Saturday/Sunday the 18th and 19th of April.

This is the tenth such event. As always, the weather will be mild and perfect* nobody will get stuck in mud and the air will be completely still.

As in the past, it will take place in Drouin West, Victoria, and the details are on the Antennapalooza [website](#) .

For a change of pace, the theme for 2026 will be about POWER. How power reaches our homes, how we organise power in our shacks, battery & portable power and what's new with Solar. We will have a series of speakers on related topics under the pavilion.

Earlier in 2025 around 70 visitors attended and checked out the demonstration curtain array on 20 metres. Come for an hour or come for the whole weekend with your caravan and camping gear. Attendance is free.

No bookings are required. Look out for more details when we get closer to the event.

* Actual weather may be slightly less than perfect.





FreeDV Review and Evaluation

By Bob Bristow VK6POP

In the September edition of QTC magazine, we announced a review and evaluation of FreeDV, a digital voice solution for radio.

The aim was to describe, test drive and evaluate FreeDV, and to provide a report in QTC Magazine.

We felt it was important to evaluate the product "out of the tin", assuming no prior knowledge of the product.

If you have read this far, but do not know what FreeDV is, the September 2025 QTC contains an article describing what FreeDV is. You can view or download it [HERE](#), and view a video by clicking on the image to the right. (video courtesy of Ben VK3TBS). Note the audio quality.



Method of evaluation:

Participants were asked to record their experience with several stages, these being Download and install, Setup and Rig Control, Setup for Audio, Receive Decode, Receive Audio Quality, and User Interface. In one column, they were asked to indicate if they experienced problems with those stages, "yes" or "no", in the next column to score the experience 1-10, 10 being "good". The last column is free text for comments, with a general comments section at the end. Three participants returned completed checklists.

The tests were all conducted on-air on the HF bands, mostly 40 metres, with a few tries on other bands.

What's "In The Tin"?

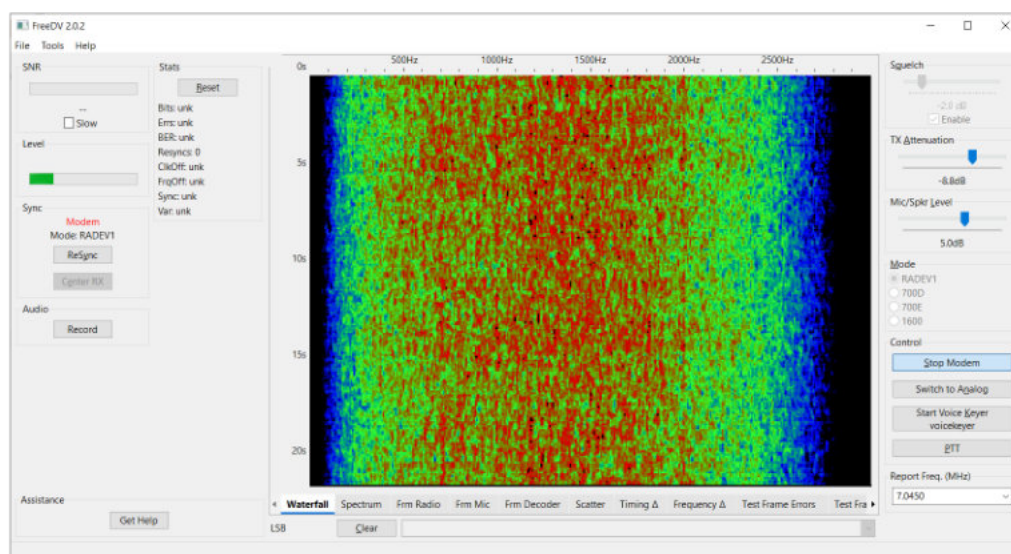
The open source FreeDV app is available for download at freedv.org. It is available for Windows, MacOS and Linux. Linux users will have to compile the app themselves.

The installer does pretty much everything. It detects your sound cards and you may be asked which soundcard will perform which functions. In this stage you can configure CAT control. This "Easy Setup" is available in the Tools menu.

You will need to go to the Tools menu and configure your soundcards and CAT controls. You have the choice of using Hamlib or Omnirig for rig control, or you can choose a serial port for PTT only.

Callsign	Locator	km	Hdg	Version	MHz	Mode	Status	Msg	Last TX	RX Call	Mode	SNR	Last Update
JA1ME	PM95sk	8146	18	FreeDV 2.0.3-dev-8819	7.1820	RADEV1	RX	Altzug/Berada: SDR/HI.2-pa-PSDR1.30W, FDP/...	10/23/25 05:30:38		RADEV1	2.0	10/23/25 05:32:41
J1CRM	QM07ab	8336	18	FreeDV 2.0.2	7.1770	RADEV1	RX						10/23/25 00:01:34
JR2JOF	PM84mu	8021	16	FreeDV 2.0.3-dev-8819	7.1820	RADEV1	TX	以前使用していたWindows10/~/~1-PCにUbuntuO...	10/23/25 05:31:33	JA1ME	RADEV1	2.0	10/23/25 05:31:33
KV4Z	EM85uo	18187	82	FreeDV 2.0.2	7.1640	RADEV1	RX	looking for testing help			RADEV1	-8.0	10/23/25 05:32:10
N8FQP	EN91ed	18183	62	FreeDV 2.0.1	7.1820	RADEV1	RX	Ted Fairlawn, Ohio			RADEV1	-5.0	10/23/25 03:23:16
VK3BAL	QF22mc	2442	106	FreeDV 2.0.2	7.0450	RADEV1	RX	Just Listening	10/23/25 05:12:09		RADEV1	-5.0	10/23/25 05:31:18
VK3SRC	QF22nc	2449	106	FreeDV 2.0.2	7.0450	RADEV1	RX	Julie&Joe - CQ SARCnet - Oakleigh Vic	10/23/25 05:30:32	VK3CKY	RADEV1	13.0	10/23/25 05:31:19
VK5ZBR	PF95gb	1880	96	FreeDV 2.0.2	7.0450	RADEV1	RX	Adrian VK5ZBR at work QTH (listening)	10/23/25 00:46:39	VK3SRC	RADEV1	6.0	10/23/25 05:30:58
VK6POP	OF84wx	0		FreeDV 2.0.2	7.0450	RADEV1	RX	Bob @ Albany			RADEV1	-7.0	10/23/25 05:30:05

Once the setup phase is completed, you are presented with two windows - one is the FreeDV GUI, and the other is FreeDV Reporter, which displays live information about who is active. You can run FreeDV reporter as an onscreen app, or within a browser.



Difficulties Faced:

Australia is a big place, and the volunteers for the project were evenly spaced between the West and East side of the continent, with the two participants in VK6 (West side) 400 kilometres apart. From Perth (VK6) to Eastern stations in VK2,3,4,5,7, the distance was somewhere between 2,500 and 3,000 Km. Most of the established group of Australian FreeDV users are in the South Eastern corner of the continent, within a few hundred Kms of each other, and 40m works well for that group. If they were to change to 20 m to talk across the continent, they would not be able to hear each other. Such is the nature of HF communication.

These challenges were useful in enabling us to see at which SNR level the decode fails and recovers. It's all grist for the mill.

How did we go?

Download and Install:

Nobody reported issues with the download and install.

Setup - Rig Control:

Two people reported issues. One said "I can't get mine to work for some reason. I can get Flrig to work, and Wsjtx and so on, but not this. That said, my pc has always



had com port issues so it is probably my issue, not a software thing. But I found an easy work around” Another said “Tried different methods and settled on Hamlib CAT Control”. Another said “Hamlib method worked fine; could not make the Omnirig option work”.

Setup - Audio:

One person reported a problem with audio setup. “A little fiddling to get enough audio drive from the computer to the radio. The other person in QSO said I had an echo. I think it's because I was using an external speaker. Changed to headphones, and that seemed to fix it.”

Receive decode:

One person reported issues with decode, however that was due to poor reception. “Excellent, surprisingly. Decodes began to deteriorate after SNR level -2”.

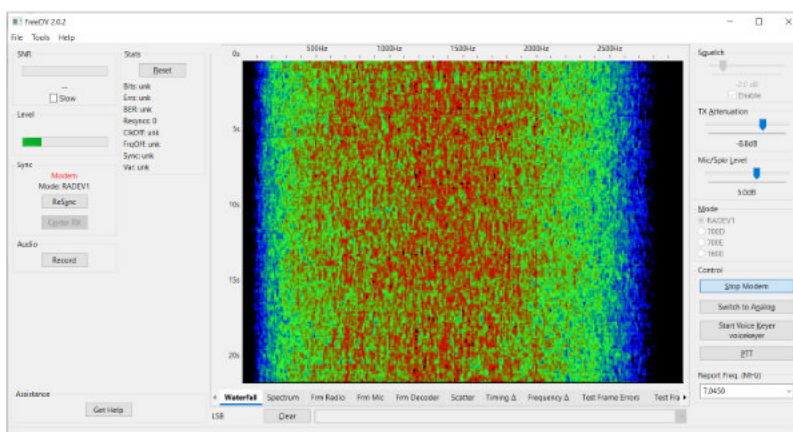
Receive Audio Quality:

Participants were impressed with the audio quality, however it relies on a fairly good signal for a continuous decode without breaking up.

User Interface:

No one reported problems with the user interface. Some comments were “I like the rx volume adjust within the software”, “It would be nice to have a software update notification built in”.

“It would be great if there was a timer showing how long you have transmitted for. A bit like echolink.”



“I listen to many users who have to ask others what they think of their signal. Perhaps the recording option needs to be a bit easier to use / understand so people can hear what they sound like.”

“Fantastic job. Love the work that has gone into this, and am happy to promote it further via my website and youtube channel. Any aspects you want me to highlight of the software, please let me know.”

Using FreeDV

To use FreeDV, there are some non negotiables:

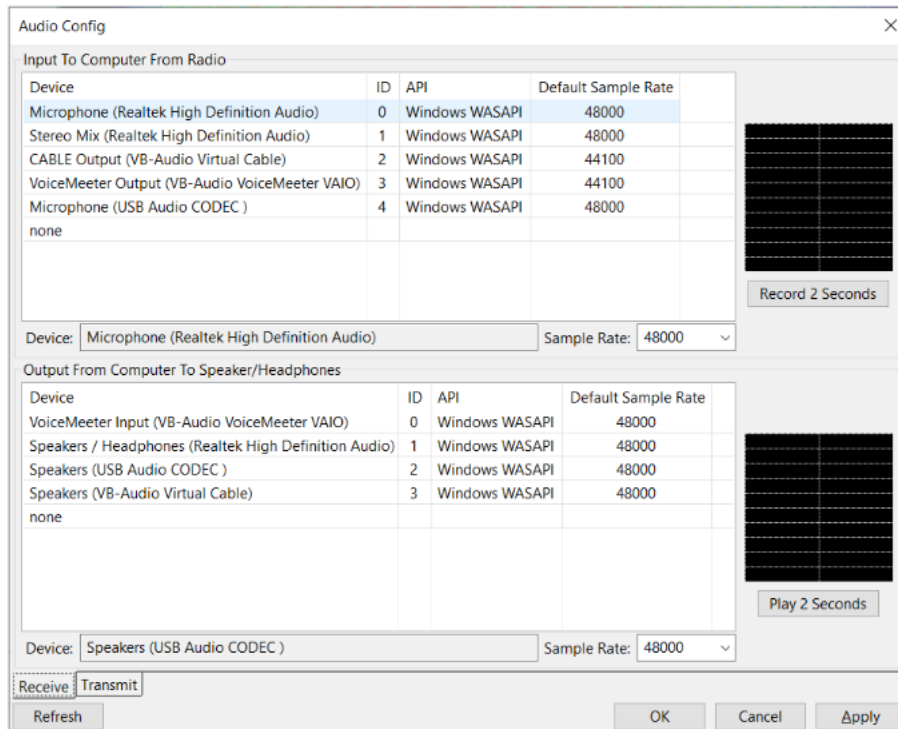
You must have an interface between the radio and computer to both control the rig, and to convey audio between the two.

Your computermust have two soundcards. This can be the inbuilt card plus a USB headset, a USB soundcard dongle etc. I use a small usb connected audio mixer.

In spite of your keenness to "get on air", it would pay you to explore all of the

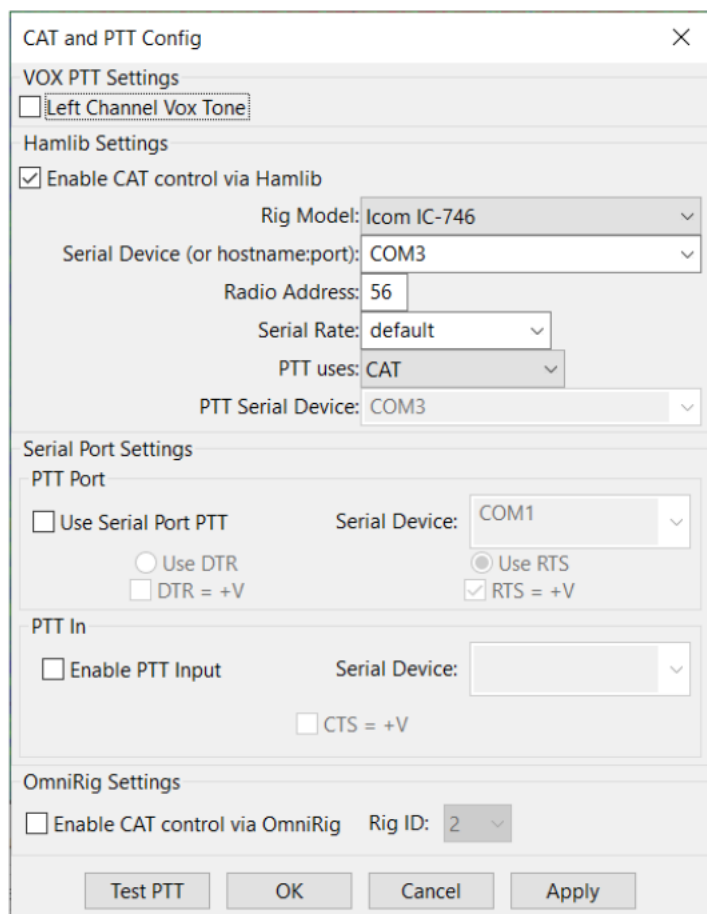
configuration options under the “tools” menu, both to familiarise yourself with how all the bits are joined, and to ensure you have joined them correctly.

The two most important setup options are:



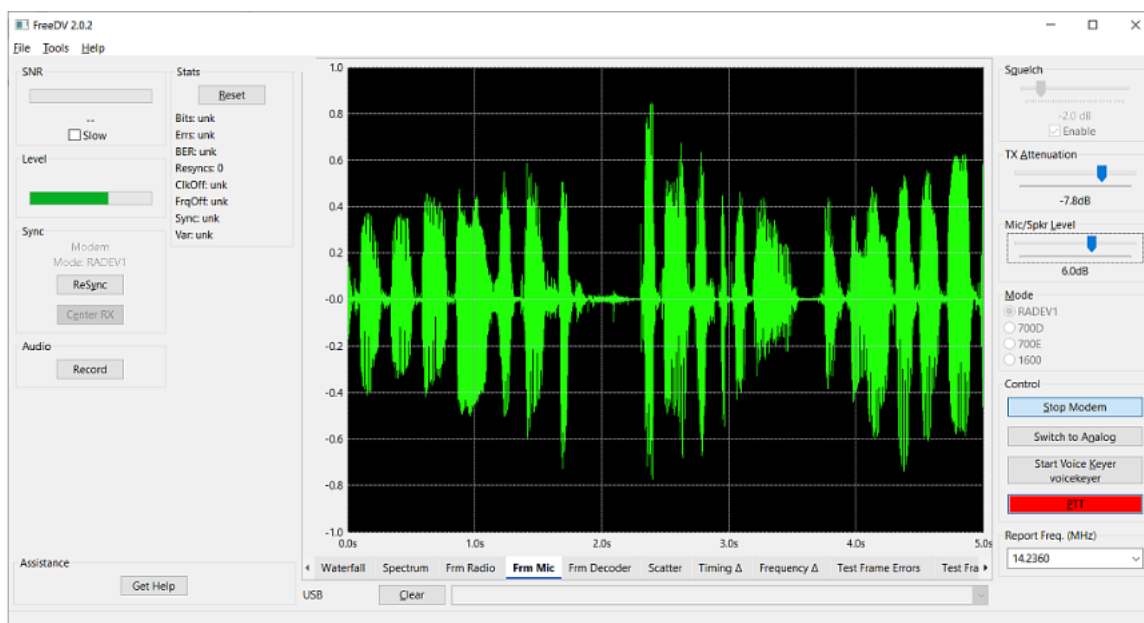
In the “**Audio Setup**” you can see how your two sound cards are utilised. You must tell the software the pathways for the audio signal, eg Microphone to PC, PC to Radio, Radio to PC, PC to speaker/headphones.

In the “**PTT and CAT config**” section is where you can choose between Hamlib and Omnirig for rig control. I’m using Hamlib for mine. Omnirig will not work at all, even though it works fine in other applications.





If you get those two right, you're ready to go. What you do need, though, is a partner - someone else using FreeDV at the same time, within radio "earshot", so you can practice with each other. You will need to do this because you will need to tweak audio levels. Fortunately this has been made easy by the inclusion of two sliders on the GUI.



One is for Tx attenuation - you can wind back the drive to the radio to an acceptable level. The other is for Mic/Spkr Level. When you operate PTT and speak into the microphone, the mic level is graphically displayed. You can adjust the level with the slider while you're speaking.

Summary

The participants in the evaluation group found it fairly easy and intuitive to set up and operate FreeDV, and were impressed at the sound quality offered by the digital process, because the QRN and QRM are simply ignored. As long as the digital data can be decoded, the rest is irrelevant. That is the strength of digital voice transmissions.

The directions for using FreeDV emphasise the need to tweak audio levels for optimal results. This is fairly easy to do with a "partner" on air.

The success so far of the development of FreeDV is amazing, especially since the development of RADE (<https://freedv.org/radio-autoencoder/>). There's no sign of the development team slowing down as they pursue improvement.

What we have now is an answer waiting for a question. FreeDV is a front end GUI that gives us access to a lot of technology, and in using it we give the developers real life testing and feedback. Somewhere, waiting in the wings, are software developers with big imaginations waiting to incorporate the technology contained within FreeDV in their bold new developments. As a bonus, FreeDV uses only 2KHz of bandwidth.

Thanks to the VK team who came on board with this trial and provided live and written feedback and assistance. The team was: Kevin VK6KR, Rob VK3LOL, Paul VK2EX, Ben VK3TBS, and other operators on air who welcomed and assisted us, especially Peter VK3TPM who coordinates the South Eastern Australian FreeDV nets on Sundays.



The “This Is Amateur Radio” site is more than a introduction to our hobby. It is a place for experienced operators to explore and seek out new branches of interest. It is intended to showcase the entirety of our hobby and not just the bits needed to pass exams.

It is still a work in progress, but each month a little more is added. The Foundation content is complete. In the New Year focus will shift to the Yellow tile educational topics that prepare candidates for the Standard exam. It won't repeat the content of the blue tiles, but it will take the reader further into detail that is needed for this next step.

This month saw some changes to the introduction at the top of the main page. There was also a change to the RASA QTC magazines in the Flip Page format where we had to migrate from www.qtcmag.com to the more simple qtcmag.com. This necessitated visits to many of the sub pages with links to QTC magazine articles so that they point to the active site, not the old site.

Feedback is an important aspect of the TIAR site. We'd like to hear from you. If you have experience that would add to a page, tell us what you know and we can share your knowledge. Direct comments and content to info@vkdadioamateurs.org and we will respond within 1-2 days.

Radio for the Curious & Creative

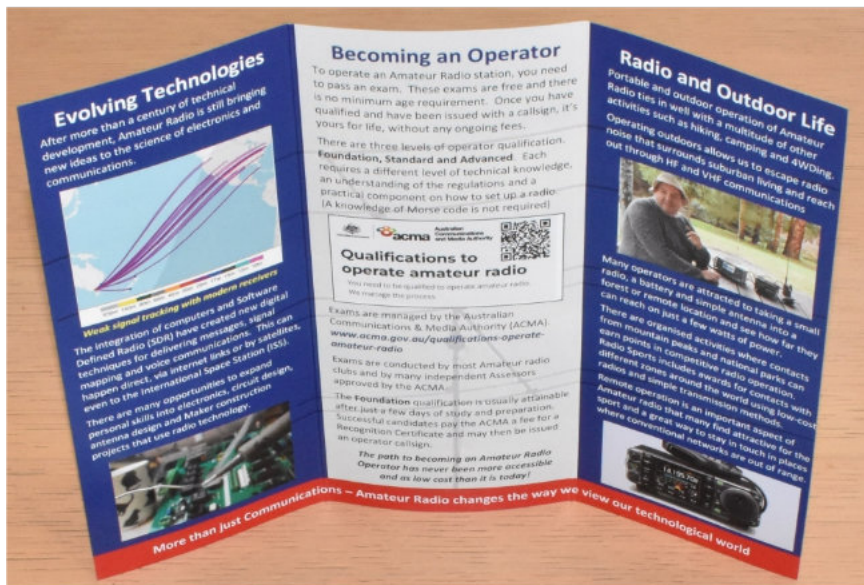
The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

Rasa Helps Clubs Find New Members

A few months have now passed since RASA produced and distributed an introductory brochure about Amateur Radio. When a club stages a public event passers by will often pause to learn more about what they are seeing. A friendly discussion can really make a difference, but more is needed. The effectiveness of the presentation is elevated when the visitor is given information to take home for later viewing.

That's where the *Welcome to Amateur Radio* brochure is helping. RASA posted ten samples to every Club in Australia using the best address information we could find. This worked several ways. There were quite several 'return to sender' packs that came back. Some of these were from active clubs that had relinquished their P.O. Box addresses, but had not yet shared a new address, or updated their website. There were also some returns from clubs that no longer exist. This too is a sign that clubs need to become active in recruiting new people to ensure the survival of their group.

RASA had received a lot of positive responses from clubs from around the country that have asked for follow-up packs of another 50 brochures, which we immediately provided. We asked these clubs to supply a few words about when and where they meet.



We then personalised their brochures by adding labels with this information in the space reserved for it.

This was an expensive exercise for RASA, which is still ongoing, but it has been an important leadership initiative providing national consistency to the way that Amateurs present themselves to the public at large.

We are grateful to the many individuals and groups who made a small donation to us to help fund this work. Everything we receive goes straight back into our core work of representation.

Everyone on the RASA team is a volunteer, receiving no payment for their efforts.

We want to hear from any club or group that wants to promote Amateur Radio. We can send more brochure packs for upcoming events.

If your club would like us to make a presentation to your group, in person or via Zoom to talk about the work we do, then we may be able to set it up.

Direct any enquiries to info@vkradioamateurs.org



Australian Amateur Band Plans Review

The Wireless Institute of Australia has opened a consultation to inform a review of the Australian Amateur Bandplans. RASA welcomes a review of the bandplans. We will contribute to the consultation, and encourage clubs and individuals to do the same.

To clarify any misunderstandings about the bandplan, what is being reviewed is the agreed usage (agreed by, hopefully, a good number of the Australian Amateur community), which operates within the bandplan defined by the legislative instrument, the License Conditions Determination (Amateur Radio). This ACMA bandplan does little more than describe the boundaries of the bands allocated for Amateur use, and whether or not our usage is exclusive or shared, eg primary or secondary.

The point of bandplans is to share our bands as equitably as possible amongst the many types of band users and modes. These bands are not enforceable by law; rather they reflect goodwill amongst Amateurs for an orderly useage of our bands.

In a recent release, the WIA said:

"The last major revision of the Australian national Amateur Radio band plans administered by the WIA was carried out almost a decade ago. At that time, major changes were mostly made to the 30m, 2m and 70cm bands. With various changes to the Amateur Radio regulations since that time, including some spectrum losses and gains, it is now necessary to update the band plans to both reflect those regulatory changes as well as update them with information on current centres of activity. We have also used this as an opportunity to address many of the requests that have been received over the past 2-3 years for changes to various bands."

"As a result, the WIA TAC committee has reviewed each band and made recommendations for changes where appropriate."

How to participate:

Visit the [consultation website](#) to read about the recommendations and how to respond.

Send your consultation response via email to wia.tac.consultations@gmail.com

Responses will be accepted from any licenced radio amateur or amateur radio club based in Australia only. This is a domestic matter and is not relevant to people outside of Australia.

The final day for receipt of responses is December 12th.

VK3RASA
REVERSE BEACON NETWORK

Located in Drouin West, Victoria, Australia.



**The Radio Amateur Society
of Australia**

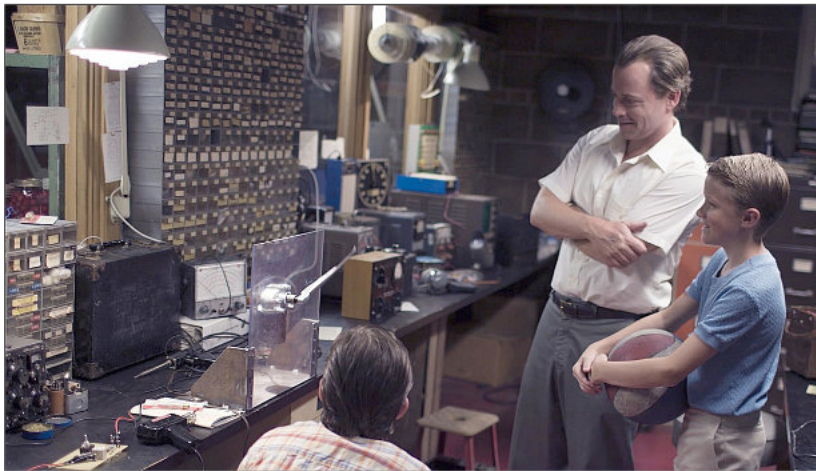
4.5 Seconds That Changed The World

By Ian Jackson VK3BUF

It is difficult to say if Amateur Radio is the breeding ground that inspires people to innovate in industry, or if it is those who are already innovators follow a natural path into the hobby. Probably it is a combination of both. Amateur radio is also a forum for like minded people to talk about what they are doing, which then evolves into invention and enhancement. In 1952 Robert Kearns WN1WEN was blinded by a wayward champagne cork on his wedding night, which was probably not the experience he had been anticipating. This was the catalyst for his future annoyance when driving in the rain, as the wipers based upon engine vacuum were erratic and tended to stop wiping during acceleration. It wasn't good enough, particularly for a person who had visual impairment. Kearns experimented with early transistor circuits back when they were an invention looking for an application and in 1962 he produced a design for a windshield wiper switching device that would hesitate for 4.5 seconds between each wipe.

Business with American characteristics.

Kearns took his invention to Ford and Chrysler and demonstrated it in action. The short version is that they said they weren't interested, ignored his intellectual property claims and promptly put his invention into the following year's models. They figured they could delay and obfuscate long enough for him to give up on his infringement claims. They were mostly right. Over the next 30 years he fought them, even representing himself at the American Supreme court.

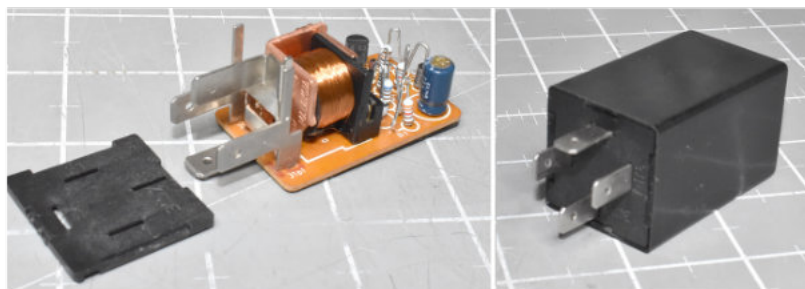


He won modest damages claims, but it made a mess of his life. The car companies had claimed that it wasn't really an invention because it was made up of standard parts that he just 'happened' to connect together in a certain way. This case was also a catalyst for changes to subsequent litigation of intellectual property. The story was immortalised in a 2008

movie called '*A flash of genius*' starring Greg Kinnear. (image from IMDB)

The Bosch module

In Australia this technology showed up in all the early Fords. The Falcon, the Cortina, Escorts and F100 utes. Bosch produced a little 'relay' module with a couple of mysterious



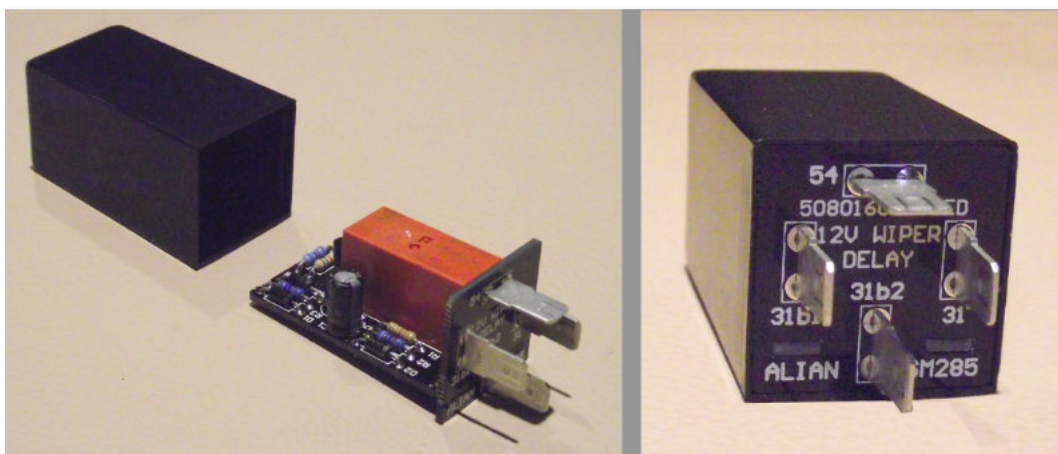


transistors inside, identified by the unforgettable part number of 9330065009. This same module was also used widely in the trucking industry.

Bosch stopped manufacturing this item in the early 2000's and supplies of them gradually evaporated.

The SM285 module

This component shortage was a particular problem for some truck manufacturers which still used this Bosch module in its production. In 2012 Iveco contacted me with a request to re-manufacture this module for their trucks. The Bosch unit had all sorts of custom stamped bits of metal, which were not readily sourced and a replacement version emerged from my workshop using more standard parts, which I identified with the code SM285. (this being my 285th design job at the time)



A lot of these were made until the trucks went with more integrated electronics. Eventually Iveco truck manufacture completely shut down in Australia and that was the end of it. Today these units are only sold in dribs and drabs to car enthusiasts. Still, it was an interesting exercise and a legacy part of the automotive industry lived on for a little bit longer.

Does anyone know how wiper delays *really* work? It can't be all that complicated...

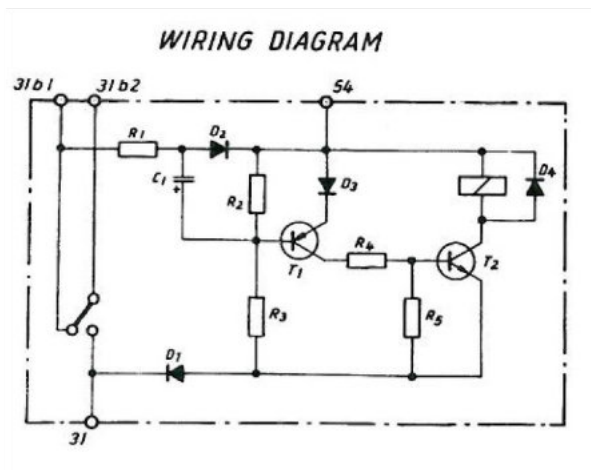
This is a more difficult question to answer than it should be. I have had many conversations with auto electricians around Australia, each with different levels of understanding. Conversations usually start with "Help!" Normally there is a procedural not technical understanding by service people. *"If a new module is fitted and the motor is a good one and the wiring is intact, then it should just go."* As for how it actually works at an electronic level, nobody I encountered really knew the answer.

There are reasons for this. All of the available information on the topic is pretty horrible.

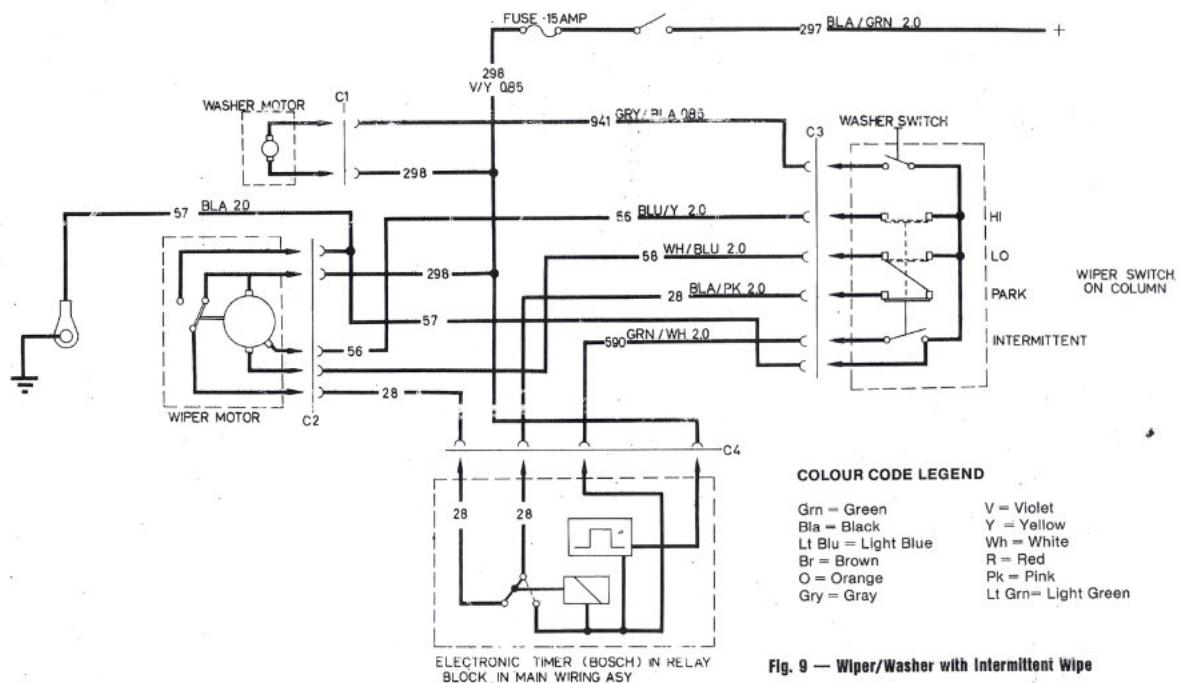


A circuit diagram of the inside of a wiper module looks like this:

Yes that is definitely a bunch of parts, but its functionality is not obvious. There is an NPN and a PNP transistor, a relay, a few diodes and a capacitor, but this is only half of a story. The schematic diagrams in cars are universally (and deliberately) vague.



This is a schematic portion of a wiper circuit from an XE Falcon manual.



Typical of automotive diagrams, it shows connections between clusters of coloured wires, while giving no insight as to how it actually works. It does not identify the wiper module, or any of its terminals. If somewhere in this mess, there is an electrical fault, then good luck diagnosing it with the information provided. There are plenty of articles and YouTube clips showing how to replace everything until wipers work again, but none (that I could find) which properly describe circuit operation.

Let's dive in and examine what is really going on here. This is more than an academic exercise about old technology. If we properly understand these automotive circuits, we can apply the knowledge in other ways. Wiper motors are a low cost power mechanism that can be used to tilt or rotate an antenna, or applied to many other projects. When my son was three months old, I put a wiper motor on his bassinet to rock him to sleep. (We only used the low speed setting. On High he looked a little green after 10 minutes of agitation.)

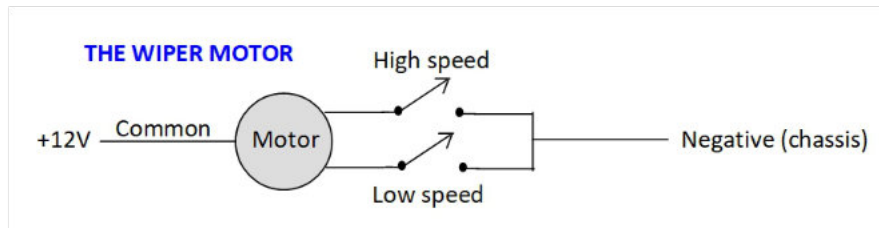
In retrospect, he may still be recovering from the experience 38 years later.

The Wiper Delay circuit in detail

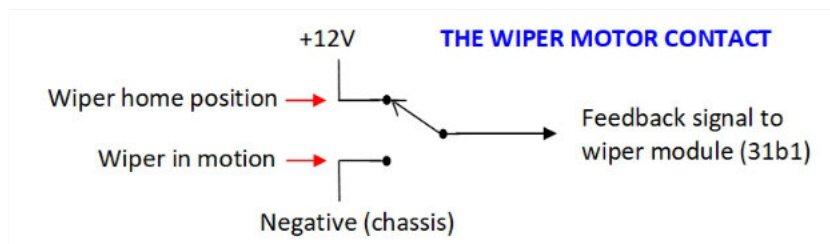
We will break this down into sections. First up is the motor, with 5 or 6 wires coming from it.

The motor itself is easy. The motor is a permanent magnet DC device. One wire connects permanently to +12V via the fuse panel. Two other wires are for High and Low wiper speeds when either wire (but not both) are switched to negative chassis via the wiper switch placed in the HIGH or LOW position.

Here is the simplified motor circuit.



The next part is also within the wiper motor. It is the feedback contact that wires to the delay module, but it must be hooked up in just the right way or else the motor contact or delay module can be damaged. This is the part that is always poorly documented. Essentially it is a special switch where a signal wire normally connects to negative ground, except when the wiper has reached its home or 'parked' position where the signal wire connects direct to the +12V supply.



This may seem like an odd thing to do, but it is all about an electrolytic capacitor inside the delay module. When the motor is in motion and the feedback wire is grounded, discharging the timing capacitor. When the motor is in the Home position, the +12V will begin to charge the capacitor and 4.5 seconds later, the relay inside the module will click and trip another wipe cycle. This is one reason why the circuit is so often misunderstood, as half of the circuit is in the delay module and half is in the motor switching chamber.

It is also a technically dangerous method because if the feedback wire is ever accidentally tied to either positive or negative, it can burn out the motion contact inside the motor. If that occurs, the circuit will never work and it won't be obvious why. We will return to this feedback circuit shortly, but next up is the wiper switch that the driver uses when it begins to rain.

The Windshield Wiper switch.

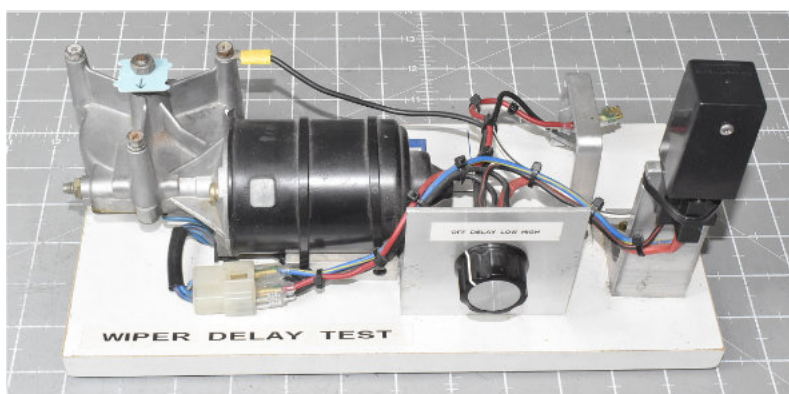
This switch is a complex little thing, but it makes more sense when you understand what each of the positions are doing. It is usually four position switch and often has a fifth position that will operate the pump that squirts water on your screen when the stalk control is pressed upward.

- In the **High** or **Low** wiper speed position it simply delivers a ground to the **High** or **Low** motor speed connection. The motor will then free-run.
- When in the **OFF** position another contact within the wiper switch connects the Low motor speed wire with the feedback signal from the wiper motor. This ensures that when the motor is mid-cycle and turned off by the driver, the motor can find a path to ground via this contact until the wiper arm reaches its home position. This ensures that wiper blades don't stop mid-wipe in the driver viewing area.
- When the wiper switch is placed in the **INT** position for intermittent timed operation, it gets interesting. Like the **OFF** position, the motor **Low Speed** wire would be grounded during wiper motion until the home position is reached. A ground connection is also switched to the wiper delay unit in the INT position to power it up. This is where the transistor magic happens. In the Home position the feedback wire provides +12V to a capacitor in the wiper delay module. This capacitor is connected to the PNP transistor base. The capacitor slowly charges, taking 4.5 seconds to rise to a voltage where the transistor turns on. As the rate of change is low, more gain is needed, so this first PNP transistor then activates a second transistor, which is an NPN device. In turn, the second transistor briefly activates a relay contact. This contact switches negative onto the **motor Low Speed** wire just long enough for it to move off the Home position, and to ground the timing capacitor, discharging it in preparation for the next cycle. The feedback wire then keeps the motor in motion until it reaches the Home position again and the delay cycle repeats.

This arrangement is why the circuit is somewhat peculiar. It uses an expensive mechanical contact to short out the timing capacitor so that the time delay is fully reset with every delay cycle. A more modern circuit would just look for a pulse input to reset a timer and the timer duration would be adjustable with a potentiometer permitting the 4.5 second delay to be adjusted for longer or shorter intervals which match rainfall conditions. In the 1980's this was often achieved with an NE555 timer chip instead of transistors. Still later, wiper delays are managed with a software routine in one of the vehicle computer modules.

In my workshop I created a small test bed with a four position switch and a socket for a delay module so that freshly assembled units can be tested. A plastic tab from a loaf of bread spins around to point at the home position. A handy device to determine if these modules are doing their job.

In summary, this article is a glimpse into the world of early solid state controls by a creative Amateur and how his intellectual property was stolen by big business. It looks at how a couple of simple transistors can manage an important application.



Lastly it cuts through some of the technical fog deliberately added to automotive circuits to stop people from working out what's really going on.

Club Support

QTC will run your club's activity advertisements

Most clubs have successful internal promotion mechanisms to inform members what's coming up. But how about activities such as hamfests, when the success of the event relies on attracting people from outside of the club membership? You need to cast your net wider. You must actually ring the bell and shout it to your audience. [insert town crier.jpg]



There are many options – email lists, social media posts, Amateur Radio news broadcasts, and magazines. QTC can help you out. We will publish your activity promo free. Make your ad either full or half page, with whatever graphics you want, and send it as a PDF to info@vkradioamateurs.org. A full page is 160mm wide, 242 high. Half page is 160x121.



The "Welcome to Amateur Radio" brochure.

Samples have been sent to all clubs – you can order more for your club, free, from RASA

Promote Courses and Exams/Assessments in FLSG

If your club conducts courses and assessments, RASA will place your club's contact details on the back page of the

popular Foundation Level Study Guide. Send details to info@vkradioamateurs.org. We'll publish Club name, location, website, contact details.

West and North Kangaroo Electronics & Radio Club
 City of Kangaroo and surrounds ACT
 Foundation, Standard and Advanced Courses and Exams
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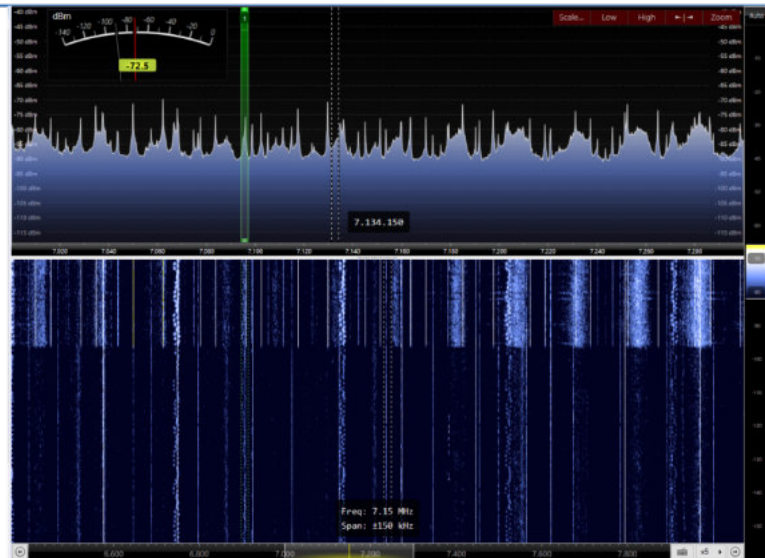
RASA will visit your club

- We can make a presentation to your club via ZOOM. Some club visits in person may be possible, however Australia is a BIG place.

- We endeavour to have a presence at hamfests. We haven't done too bad so far. Make a point of inviting RASA to your next event. If possible, we will.

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SCAN
ME



Skills Development – Muscle Memory

Muscle memory for Morse code involves using repetitive physical actions, like straight key presses, bug or paddle combinations to build and reinforce neural pathways for the dot-dash sequences, making it an automatic, unconscious process.

A good analogy is driving a manual car. Those of us who learned on a manual gearbox will remember the confusion and concentration required to work through the gear changes; pressing the clutch, changing gear, releasing the clutch, working the indicators, steering, and trying to ignore all the helpful advice from Mum and Dad. Yet a few short weeks later, changing gears became easier, and after some time a completely automatic process. A good example of muscle memory at work.

This phenomenon was demonstrated very well on my recent trip to Norfolk Island. Over the years I have built a strong muscle memory for sending my callsign “VK3QB”, as well of course as my name, QTH and a few other important brief phrases. Well, it took a good few hours to force a new callsign into my muscle memory, that being “VK9NT”. Even after a few days, if I was tired and operating on autopilot, I was aware of a propensity to revert to my VK3QB muscle memory.



“Research shows learning Morse code improves neuroplasticity, altering the brain’s white matter and enhancing the inferior longitudinal fasciculus (ILF), a region associated with object recognition, language and cognition. While the term “muscle memory” typically refers to motor skills, a study demonstrated that learning Morse code, a skill involving acoustic patterns and short-term memory, also leads to structural changes in the brain’s white matter.” Source: Google AI

In other words, as we commit a letter, word, or phrase to memory it forms a pattern in our brains, thereby enabling faster, more “automatic” recognition. This is far quicker and more efficient than the old fashioned “look up table” so many of us learned when we first started with Morse Code. And it works for both sending and receiving.

The key to building your muscle memory is repetition and reinforcement. Most simply:



Initial Learning: When you first learn Morse code, you rely on conscious effort to recall and execute each dot and dash sequence. To make your end game more efficient and easier to achieve, learn the code at least at 18-20WPM. At these speeds you are hearing the dot-dash sequence from the outset, and not trying to count dits and dahs.

Practice and Automation: With practice, your brain begins to process these patterns more efficiently. Practice daily, both sending and receiving. By using more than one mode (i.e. Sending and receiving) you are creating a more effective learning environment.

Automatic reflex: Eventually, the sequence of movements for sending or recognising a character becomes semi-automatic, requiring less conscious thought. This is when it's considered "muscle memory".

Also, make sure you are developing an accurate muscle memory. Record your sending, and practice off-air to make sure the rhythm and timing is accurate.

The best way to develop muscle memory is regular practice. Daily is ideal... at least 10-15 minutes. If you can manage 20-30 minutes that's even better.

Give it a try... you'll start seeing progress in just a few days.

CW Ops - Academy

CW Academy is a great learning environment, and CW Ops runs these classes three times per year. If you're at all interested, the next intake is in January 2026. I'm running a survey until the middle of November to see if there is sufficient interest here in VK and ZL.



If you are at all interested in a class in January/February 2026, please [complete the survey](#).

If you have any questions, please [drop me an email](#). Courses are eight weeks long and no matter your level, you'll come out the other side with better skills and more enjoyment from the code. CW Academy is immersive, engaging, and fun.

<https://cwops.org/cw-academy/>

As always, if you have any questions or feedback, please drop me an email.

73, Chris VK3QB & VK1CWO

CW Ops OC Ambassador

vk3qb@hotmail.com

History from 1937

Daily News (Perth, WA), Wednesday 9 June 1937, page 7

Nedlands Amateur Wins Radio Cup

Remarkable progress made in the space of two years, is revealed in the figures behind the consistent performance of a young amateur wireless enthusiast — Mr. William Weston, of Portland-street, Nedlands.

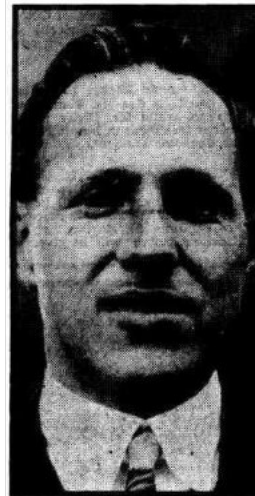
His good work in short-wave transmission and reception has won for him the 'West Australian' cup, donated for the best all-round performance by a West Australian amateur transmitter over a period of twelve months. During the period from June 1, 1936, to May 31, 1937, Mr. Weston exchanged greetings and messages with 924 different amateurs scattered all over the world. Located in 34 countries, he contacted 23 of these transmitters by radio phone—the rest by the use of Morse code.

Included in his achievements are the carrying out of test experiments on 10 metres with all Australia and New Zealand on telephony, and the holding of a schedule with America for five consecutive mornings; telephony communications with 23 different countries on 20 metres; including a regular schedule for six consecutive weekends with England, and nightly contacts with America and Canada; the winning in this State of the Australian-New Zealand Morse code contest; and the winning in Western Australia of the American Radio Relay League phone contest for the greatest number of contacts. His transmitter is built into a six-foot rack and panel and was entirely designed and built by himself.

It comprises a five-valve radio frequency section, the power section of four valves and a five-valve modulator complete with monitor speaker and a crystal microphone. Mr. Weston contends., that the big secret of his achievements in getting long distance stations is the experimental work he has done on aerials. He now has a special aerial rigged which consists of two 40-foot poles.

Originally he erected three 70-foot masts in a triangular formation, but

Nedlands Amateur Wins Radio Cup



MR. W. WESTON

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vealed in the figures behind the consistent performance of a young amateur wireless enthusiast—Mr. William Weston, of Portland-street, Nedlands.

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these were destroyed by the wind. This is the first time Mr. Weston has won the 'West Australian' Cup. He has been engaged in commercial radio work for a number of years, but has only held an amateur's licence for two years.

This item was extracted from the National Library of Australia's Trove website. Ed.

An Open Letter to the DX Community

Oct 22, 2025

By Krassy Petkov, K1LZ

As many of you know, it was both my dream and my honor to join the team planning to activate 3Y0K Bouvet Island in February 2026. To make this possible, I recruited K3JO, LU9ESD, RN5M, and JT1CO to join me in this effort, and I personally contributed \$120,000 to cover both their participation and mine.

In addition, K3JO, LU9ESD, RN5M, and I built all the Yagi vertical antennas, towers, and supporting equipment that were to be used at 3Y0K — representing an additional personal out-of-pocket expense of about \$100,000. It took us over three months of hard work and dedication to complete everything.

I also secured major sponsorships and equipment deals:

From Icom America, twelve IC-7610 transceivers and four IC-7300s.

From ACOM, twelve amplifiers.

I personally provided a full set of antennas for both camps, including fourteen Yagis, two verticals for 160m, two 4-square arrays for 80m and two for 40m, verticals for 30m, tribanders, dual-banders, filter sets for all bands, duplexers, triplexers, and more — plus nearly 30 waterproof cases, all purchased out of my own pocket.

All this equipment was shipped to Norway for loading into the container that is now enroute to Bouvet. I took full responsibility for ensuring the technical success of this expedition — and I fulfilled 100% of that responsibility.

Over the past several months, I repeatedly asked Ken (LA7GIA) to share with the team a financial statement — including a cash-flow report and a profit-and-loss summary — for the 3Y0K expedition. My intention was simple: to ensure transparency for all team members and to organize a collective meeting to review the final preparations — and, if necessary, to coordinate financial or logistical support.

Instead of responding to these reasonable requests and calling a team meeting, Ken asked me for an additional \$90,000 to cover a supposed budget shortfall. At other times, he also asked for extra contributions of \$7,000 per operator from K1LZ, LU9ESD, K3JO, and RN5M. I agreed to this second request because he said that all team members would be asked to do the same.

These questions apparently made the leadership uncomfortable — but I asked them because I began to feel that what they really wanted from me was my name, my contacts, and my money. Sadly, it seems I was not wrong.

Additionally, I asked LA7GIA several times to disclose to the entire team the names of the private donors and the specific contractual terms under which they were contributing to 3Y0K— reportedly at a level of \$800,000.

Isn't it concerning to travel to such a remote and dangerous island with people whose names, identities, and intentions are completely unknown to us? Don't we have the



right to know who they are, what role they will play, and how they will provide the \$800,000 pledged to the expedition?

Let us not forget that a similar situation occurred during another expedition a few years ago, which had to be terminated prematurely due to serious internal conflicts between the amateur radio team and an external group.

I also requested that a team doctor be added to the roster — something that, to my knowledge, every major expedition of this magnitude has always included. Having a medical professional should be an absolute priority. We must not forget that serious accidents have already happened in past operations — I almost lost my life after falling from a tower that had been improperly secured by an inexperienced person.

Finally, I asked for confirmation regarding the second, higher camp location that had originally been planned for better propagation toward North America.

I was later told that this second site was no longer being considered, even though it continued to appear on the official 3Y0K website. In reality, from a topographic and propagation perspective, both sites are nearly identical — and unfortunately, both are among the worst possible locations on the island.

The supposed “North American camp” appears to have been nothing more than a marketing narrative to attract NA sponsors. Without that story, it is doubtful anyone would have trusted the same leadership team that had already failed once before in their previous Bouvet attempt.

That is why I decided to get involved — because, whether the leadership likes it or not, my team specializes in this field. We build some of the most successful radio stations in the world. We are not better than anyone else — we simply have experience and proven results.

If anyone felt offended by that, I sincerely regret it. But the facts speak for themselves: Roman (RN5M) has been doing this professionally for over 25 years, and Manu (LU9ESD) has worked alongside him for the past four. Velimir (K3JO), with his background as an electronic engineer, has been a pioneer in radio station automation and is the only person I know who can solve absolutely any problem that arises in that field.

In past expeditions, he has repaired transceivers, amplifiers, and all kinds of electronic equipment, allowing us to continue operating without interruption. But I don't need to say much more about them — the whole world knows these names, and they have earned the respect of the community for what they have done and continue to do for amateur radio.

In all the above situations, I was met with resistance and silence. Ken refused to provide the requested information, yet continued to pressure me for an additional \$90,000.

That amount originated from an informal conversation we had last year in Friedrichshafen, where I mentioned that if funding was still short toward the end, I might be able to help. Since the leadership group failed to raise the necessary funds — perhaps due to their damaged reputation and lack of trust within the community — Ken later included that \$90,000 as a contractual obligation for me, adding a special clause in the agreement.

It was a bold and calculated move — one that, in hindsight, seems to have been part of the plan from the very beginning. My biggest mistake was signing that contract without carefully reading it, believing that among teammates, we would never deceive one another.



Neither I nor anyone on my team ever received an invitation or communication to attend the workshops or participate in the container loading in Norway, which makes it clear that our presence was never truly welcome.

This past week, I was officially informed that I am no longer a member of the 3Y0K DXpedition, because I refused to provide the extra \$90,000 and because I was “asking too many questions.” I was told my personal \$30,000 initial contribution would be refunded, and I was instructed to publicly announce that I was leaving the expedition “for personal reasons.”

Since that statement is not true, I have chosen not to comply with this request.

K3JO, LU9ESD, RN5M, and JT1CO have been told they may still participate if they wish, and I will fully respect whatever decision they make. As of this writing, however, it appears that none of them will be going to Bouvet.

Still, I find it highly suspicious that this decision came immediately after the leadership group received everything they had been waiting for — the antennas, the radios, and all the equipment I personally ensured reached them. Once they had everything they needed, I suddenly became expendable.

Obviously, I am deeply disappointed by this outcome. I want to sincerely thank the many members of the DXcommunity who supported me and looked forward to seeing my team and me on Bouvet — particularly on the low bands, where we were committed to ensuring complete worldwide coverage.

I share the same disappointment that many of you will feel after reading this. But please believe me — I, too, feel used, deceived, and profoundly disillusioned.

To all who have supported me for decades: thank you for your confidence, friendship, and faith in my team. Those who know me understand how much I love this hobby, and that for many years I have been helping and contributing to make it better and better — but from now on, with far greater caution about who I choose to work with.

My name, honor, and dignity remain intact—as does my love for amateur radio.

73 and see you on the bands,

Krassy Petkov, K1LZ

RASA published this letter in good faith. It is published here in full, from an item on DXWorld website. Editor.



**Radio for the
Curious & Creative**
The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

3Y0K Team Announcement

The 3YØK team remains committed to activate Bouvet Island in 2026. Our project continues and it is on schedule, as planned, with a departure date of February 1, 2026 from Cape Town.



The team has a written contract that dictates how a shortfall of money shall be covered. Multiple members defaulted on that agreement as they for several months were refusing to pay their share of contractual obligations, exposing the team to a large financial risk, shortfall of money and cancellation of this and future DXpeditions. With a total budget of \$1,7M, where the team already spent \$1,1M, the team has faced severe financial and contractual consequences. Almost all of our equipment like radio and amplifiers are generously loaned by our sponsors, and while the antenna scope is important, it's a small cost in the total budget.

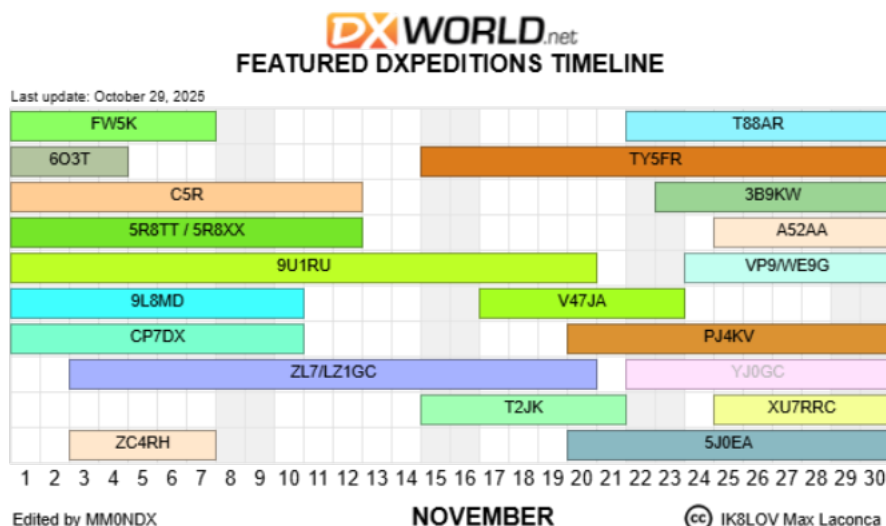
To protect the interest of everyone involved, the current team members contributed an additional amount of \$150,000 of our personal funds to ensure the financial success of the DXpedition. The current team's commitment is exemplified through this additional contribution as we have focused on avoiding a financial loss for everyone involved due to the breach of contract by former members.

Our focus is now solely on Cape Town logistics and operations to support the February 1st departure date. We are booking flights and working with local stakeholders to ensure a successful start. The team has a good spirit and work well towards a common goal while we want to enjoy this DXpedition. Team spirit is everything when you want to go to the most remote island on the planet. We continue our plan to setup and operate two separate camps on Bouvet, with one camp focused on North America. Camp locations will be dictated by local conditions upon arrival, keeping in mind that safety must always come first.

The leadership group interviewed 4 medical doctors interested to support the DX'pedition, and the Team Doctor will be announced in due course.

Our priority remains to ensure the success of the project. The team continues to focus on the complex logistics necessary for a successful DXpedition and we thank the DX community for their continued support.

73, 3YØK leadership group - Ken, Adrian, Cezar and Dennis



Pet Peeves

UTC

As Amateurs we ought to know about UTC, Universal Coordinated Time.

The key word for me is the “C” word - “Coordinated”.

So if I here in the Great South Land say that I’ll be on air at 0500 UTC, everybody, everywhere, should automatically know exactly when that should be.

But that is not the case, is it? And that’s my pet peeve.



Although Amateurs OUGHT to know about, understand and utilise UTC in their everyday operation, many don’t. Almost every day I see things like “Join our net on xx.xx MHz next Wednesday at 5pm.”

Now, is that 5pm in Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Darwin, Hobart or Norfolk Island? Those places are all in Australia, and represent four timezones. Actually, five timezones when daylight savings is active.

For the sake of clarity, and my sanity, please endeavour to use the universal time standard. It’s not difficult. Remember what your UTC offset is, and employ primary school arithmetic.

(Read about UTC and GMT, and what’s the difference, in the [May edition](#) of QTC magazine.)

What’s your pet peeve? Send your (PG Rated please) pet peeve to us via mail to info@vkradioamateurs.org for publication. Please be clear about whether or not you want your name published with your pet peeve. Ed.

Radio for the Curious & Creative

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia



Contesting

By Bob VK6POP

In this contesting segment our aim is to inform newcomers to the hobby and/or contesting, to generate interest in having a go. We can leave the seasoned contesters alone - they know what they want, which contests they will pursue and so forth.

Is Amateur Radio Contesting Dying?

Someone recently pondered on whether contesting was dying. It could appear so. Let us take a look at one staple of contesting within Australia, the Remembrance Day Contest.

Shown here is a graph of data taken from the contest manager's reports on the contest since 2020.

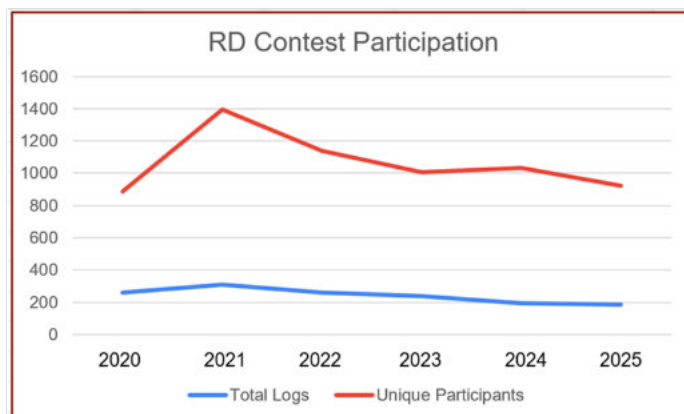
The spike in all numbers in 2021 is almost certainly due to COVID restrictions. Many of us were in "lockdown" and club entries were not possible.

It is clear, however, that there has been a marked decline in participation in the RD contest since then.

Year	Total Logs	Logged Contacts	Unique Participants	Note
2020	259	32183	886	75 Anniv
2021	310	38076	1395	Calculated *
2022	262	35685	1137	
2023	237	30437	1006	
2024	195	28660	1033	
2025	186	24470	922	

* "Unique Participants" for 2021 was not provided in the report, so was calculated to be at the average ratio of "unique participants" and "total logs" for the other years.

I would be inappropriate at this time to speculate on the cause of the decline in participation, nor have I collated statistics for other contests, which may alter the picture. There's anecdotal evidence out there that people are turning away from contests. Perhaps that's a project for another day, but it's certainly food for thought.





Contests coming up

Japan International DX Contest - Phone

From 0700 UTC 8th November to 1300 UTC 9th November 2025

The objective of this contest is for amateurs around the world(DX) to contact JA stations in as many JA prefectures and JD1 islands as possible, and for amateurs in Japan to contact DX stations in as many DXCC entities and CQ Zones as possible.

Japan is quite reachable from Australia, so it's worth having a go at this one. You should read the rules to determine which category you'd be best entering.

The website for this contest is <https://www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html>

Worked All Europe DX Contest - RTTY

Saturday, November 8th 2025, 00:00 UTC until Sunday, November 9th 2025, 23:59 UTC

<https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/wae-rules/>

Spring VHF/UHF Field Days - Australia

0100 UTC Saturday 22 November through 0059 UTC Sunday 23 November (0400 / 0359 in VK6).

Aim Of The Contest

The overriding aim is to get away for the weekend and have fun! But next after that, the aims are:

- to encourage more activity on VHF, UHF, and microwave bands;
- to encourage people to work greater distances than usual by operating portable;
- to provide opportunities for people to activate or work into new grid squares.

<https://www.wia.org.au/members/contests/vhfuhf/>

Australia Day Contest 2026

Amateurs in VK will endeavour to contact other amateurs around the world. Some VK operators will be using the AX prefix to celebrate Australia day, as it's wanted by many amateurs around the world.

Scoring is distance based and calculated using 4-character grid squares.



For more information, check the [contest website](#)